STATE OF CONNECTICUT



STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

www.jud.state.ct.us

Second Floor – Suite Two

287 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06118-1885

Attorney Mark Dubois Chief Disciplinary Counsel 80 Washington Street Hartford, CT 06106 Attorney Robert E. Ghent 193 Grand Street P.O. Box 1905 Waterbury, CT 06722

RE: Grievance Complaint #05-0069; Bowler v. Ghent

Dear Chief Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent:

Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b), the undersigned, duly-appointed reviewing committee of the Statewide Grievance Committee, has reviewed the Conditional Admission and Agreement as to Discipline (hereinafter "Conditional Admission") filed May 12, 2005 and submitted for approval in the above referenced matter. After careful consideration of the Conditional Admission, the Affidavit of the Respondent submitted pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(c) and the entire record of the complaint, and after conducting a hearing pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b) on May 12, 2005, the undersigned hereby APPROVE the Conditional Admission, a copy of which is attached hereto together with the Affidavit of the Respondent. Accordingly, the disposition agreed to by the Chief Disciplinary Counsel and the Respondent in the above referenced matter and set forth in the Conditional Admission is hereby made an order of this reviewing committee. The Respondent is reprimanded.

So ordered.

cc: Attorney Michael P. Bowler Attorney Gail Kotowski

(B)

(asc)

DECISION DATE: 6 2

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Attorney John C. Matulis

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ttorney Geoffrey Naab

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Ms. Johanna Kimball

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

NO. 05-0069

MICHAEL BOWLER Complainant

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ROBERT GHENT Respondent

CONDITIONAL ADMISSION AND AGREEMENT AS TO DISCIPLINE

Pursuant to Practice Book § 2-82, the undersigned Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel stipulate and agree as follows:

- 1. This matter was instituted by grievance complaint filed by the local panel counsel for the Waterbury Judicial District on March 17, 2005.
- 2. On March 16, 2005 the Grievance Panel for the Waterbury Judicial District found probable cause that the Respondent had violated Rules 1.15 (a) and (b) Overdrafts of his clients' funds account, and 8.1 Failure to respond to a lawful demand for information, of the Rules of Professional Conduct connection with in connection with several overdrafts of the Respondent's clients funds account following a real estate closing.
- 3. The Respondent has tendered a conditional admission of fact in accordance with his affidavit attached hereto, admitting the material facts of the complaint.
- 4. Respondent has been admitted to practice since 1982. He has been disciplined three times in five years preceding the hearing on the instant complaint, including two reprimands, September 21, 2001, September 12, 2003 and imposition of conditions on February 18, 2005, all before the hearing on this grievance.

- 5. Respondent has agreed to accept a reprimand for his conduct, and to implement a procedure in his office where a member of his support staff will review every closing file immediately after the closing to make sure that all necessary banking transactions are complete.
- 6. Respondent further understands and acknowledges that he is exposed to a mandatory presentment to the Superior Court for any future findings of misconduct before September 12, 2008 pursuant to Connecticut Practice Book § 2-47(d).
- 7. Disciplinary Counsel has agreed to recommend to the Statewide Grievance Committee that the matter be resolved with the issuance of a reprimand.

WHEREFORE, this matter is submitted to the Statewide Grievance Committee for its approval in accordance with Practice Book § 2-82 (b).

15/ns

Date

Office of Disciplinary Counsel

By: Patricia King

Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

Respondent

Date

By: Robert Ghent

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

NO. 05-0069

MICHAEL BOWLER Complainant

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ROBERT GHENT Respondent

<u>AFFIDAVIT</u>

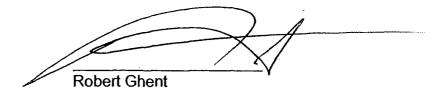
STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
ss
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD)

I am over the age of 18 and believe in the obligation of an oath. Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82, I make the following affidavit:

- 1. The Conditional Admission attached hereto and made a part hereof is voluntarily submitted.
- 2. I herein consent to a reprimand as the form of discipline set forth in the attached Conditional Admission.
- 3. I am aware that I have a right to a full evidentiary hearing on this matter, and I waive that right by entering into this agreement.
- 4. I have been neither subject to coercion nor duress and I am fully aware of the implications of this Affidavit and Conditional Admission.
- 5. I am aware that I have a right to be represented by counsel in this matter.
- 6. I am aware of the current proceeding regarding my violation of Rule Rules 1.15 (a) and (b) Overdraft of clients' funds account and 8.1(2) Failure to respond to a lawful demand for information, of the Rules of Professional Conduct in connection with several overdrafts of the Respondent's clients funds account following a real estate closing, and my failure to provide an explanation to the local panel counsel.
- 7. I acknowledge that I failed to make a timely deposit of the check

representing the proceeds of the sale of real property, and that as a result checks that had been written against those funds were returned unpaid. I also acknowledge that I failed to provide an explanation for the overdrafts when first asked by the local panel counsel.

8. I acknowledge that my conduct violated Rules 1.15 (a) and (b) and 8.1(2) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.



Subscribed and sworn to before me

this __ day of _

_, 2005.

Commissioner of the Superior Court